it is found feasible, the Circuit Bench may be upgraded to the status of a Permanent Bench. The Report has been placed on the Table of the House.

The recommendations have also been referred to the Government of Tamil Nadu for their views and comments. Reply from the State Government is awaited.

रद्दी कागज के आयात पर लेवी

1479. **श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी :** क्या **उद्योग** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में लगभग 200 छोटी कागज बनाने वाली इकाईयां कार्यरत हैं जो कि कागज के उत्पादन के लिये कच्चे माल के रूप में निरस्त रद्दी कागज को प्रयोग में ला रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि सरकार ने हाल ही में रद्दी कागज के आयात पर लेवी लगा दी है ;

(ग) क्या सरकार को कथित मिल मालिकों से लेवी लगाये जाने के विरुद्ध कोई अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुआ है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार की उस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

उद्योग मंत्रालय में औद्योगिक विकास विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम० अरुणाचलम) (क) अधिकांश छोटी कागज मिलें कागज और गत्ता बनाने के लिये मुख्यतया गैरपारम्परिक कच्चा माल प्रयोग कर रहीं हैं जैसे कि कृषि के अवशिष्ट पदार्थ, रद्दी कागज आदि ।

(ख) से (घ) कागज या गत्ता बनाने में उपयोग करने के लिये लुगदी बनाने के उद्देश्य से आयात किये जाने वाले रद्दी कागज पर आयात शुल्क की दर 1-3-1987 से शून्य प्रतिशत से बढ़ाकर 25% मूल्यानुसार कर दी गयी है । किन्तु केन्द्र सरकार ने इस मामले पर पुनः विचार किया है और आयात शुल्क की दर घटा कर 10% मूल्यानुसार करने का निर्णय लिया है ।

Appointment of retired Government officers as Consultants

1480. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints that a large number of retired Government officers who have been appointed as consultants in his Ministry and other public sector undertakings are also unofficially acting as liaison men for various industrial houses;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have laid down any guidelines for the appointment of retired Government consultants as advisors or consultants in his Ministry or public sector undertakings; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) For appointment of consultants and payment of fee, all Ministries and Departments are following the general instructions issued by Ministry of Home Affairs/Deptt. of Personnel & Training from time to time.

Closure of industries in public sectors

1481. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various committees appointed by the Government have recommended closure of

large number of industries in the Public Sectors;

(b) if so whether Government have taken a policy decision to make sure that the large number of workers working in these units are not rendered jobless; and

(c) whether Government propose that no public sector undertaking would be closed till alternative employment opportunities are created for the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) Various Committees appointed by Government from time to time have recommended, among other things, closure of certain public sector units. However, the Government have not taken any decision to close down any Central public enterprise at present.

(b) and (c) In view of reply to (a) above (b) and (c) do not arise.

Taking help of accredited advertising agencies for public sectors

1482. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether instructions have been issued to the Public Sector Enterprises to take help of accredited Advertising Agencies only in the matter of publicity work of the enterprises;

(b) whether Government are working on the subject of allotting a certain portion of such jobs to small agencies (non-accredited) run by self-employed; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to support the self-employed units by allotting some portion of the total jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) : (a) Instructions have been issued to the public enterprises to use the services of accredited advertising agencies only in the matter of publicity work of the enterprises. However, the system of maintaining a panel of accredited agencies by DAVP has since been dispensed with.

(b) and (c) Choice of advertising agencies and allotment of advertisement jobs come within the purview of day-to-day autonomous functioning of the public enterprises. The managements of the public enterprises are aspects in accordance with their commercial requirements.

Nationalisation of Bengal Potteries

1483. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed the Tata Consultancy Firm to look into the question of viability of the Bengal Potteries Limited;

(b) whether the report has been submitted to the Government;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether it is a fact that a large number of Members of Parliament from West Bengal have demanded nationalisation of the Bengal Potteries; and

(e) if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (e) The Tata Economic Consultancy Services (TECS) have conducted a viability study of M/s. Bengal Potteries Limited (BPL) and submitted their report. The report was prepared at the instance of the Industrial Reconstruction Bank of